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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/780,024	LIAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Son M. Tang	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/04/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>3/31/06</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Roberto Capriotti on 3/30/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the list of claims,

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
an oscillation circuit to generate an oscillation signal ~~using~~ by driving a signal to excite a
marker, said marker generating said oscillation signal, said oscillation circuit to modify a
characteristic of said oscillation signal in response to ~~an~~ a proximate external source; and
a sensor to receive said oscillation signal, detect ~~said~~ the modification, and generate a
detect output signal in accordance with said detection indicative of said proximate external
source.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said oscillation circuit comprises:

a drive coil to generate a magnetic field;

a said marker to generate a marker signal in response to said magnetic field;

a sense coil to receive said marker signal;

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an amplifier to amplify said marker signal to form an amplified signal; and
wherein said drive coil to increase said magnetic field in response to said amplified signal, with said oscillation circuit to continue increasing said amplified signal until gain for said amplified signal reaches a predetermined threshold to form said oscillation signal.

15. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

generating an oscillation signal ~~using~~ by driving a signal to excite a marker, said marker generating said oscillation signal;

modifying a characteristic of said oscillation signal in response to ~~an~~ a proximate external source;

detecting ~~said~~ the characteristic modification; and

generating a detect output signal in accordance with said detection indicative of said external source.

22. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

~~an~~ proximate external source;

a detector to detect said proximate external source, said detector comprising an oscillation circuit to generate an oscillation signal by driving a signal to excite a marker, said marker generating said oscillation signal, said oscillation signal having a frequency to match a marker signal from a said marker, with a characteristic of said marker signal to change in response to said proximate external source; and

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a sensor to monitor said characteristic and detect said change, and generate a detect output signal to represent said change in said characteristic, said detection indicative of said proximate external source.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son M. Tang whose telephone number is (571)272-2962. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/9 First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on (571)272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Son Tang


BENJAMIN C. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER